

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, December 15, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and  
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Terry Lewis  
Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, Howard Askins, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco  
November 2011 minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

**II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- **Chairman** – Larry Gasco discussed the following:  
MHC Budget – The Commission submitted a budget for FY 2012/13 to the bureau analyst for review. Approximately \$29,000 was requested to cover the cost of meetings and events. If approved, the revised amount will be automatically included in future budgets.  
Annual Goals – Each Commissioner received a copy of goals from the retreat and asked to write a personal action plan to complete the goals. Five responses have been received and one request for additional time. Goals 1 and 2 pertain to increasing communication and involvement between the Commission and DMH Executive Management Team. Dr. Southard is willing to help with this goal.
- **Executive Committee Meeting Recap** – Jacqueline Kechedzian, Student Professional Worker II gave a brief overview of the meeting.
  1. DMH has new funding sources; more MHSA dollars are available
  2. Hosting a Commission meeting in the Antelope Valley
  3. Negotiations for 3 intern placements for Older Adults Program began
- **New Employee Orientation** – Jerry Lubin and Delores Huffman will attend the New Employee Orientation on January 30, 2012
- **MHC Oversight and Accountability Goal** - The group discussed the role of the Commission and DMH Deputies and its commitment to oversight and accountability. Dr. Shaner suggested speaking with Richard Van Horn about the responsibilities for Commission and DMH. Sacramento interest-based groups will put pressure on counties because they don't think counties can meet the diverse needs. Consumers and families from Los Angeles County accurately represent the needs in Southern California. Dr. Shaner further stated Richard Van Horn developed leadership training courses for clients that have proven successful.

Dr. Southard stated, the Commission has a big authority which is a relationship with the board of supervisors, and expertise in intellectual experience to guide building DMH.

### **III. DMH Report – Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director**

#### **Dr. Shaner reported on proposals submitted by DMH:**

Challenge Grant – A funding source for approximately \$1 billion is available for implementation and improvement in health care under the Affordable Care Act. LA County submitted three:

1. Use retrained social workers in activities as extenders to link people to physicians without doctor appointments. The role of the social workers will increase from minor to major.
2. DMH and partners LA Care, DPH, Alcohol and Drug Programs, CA Social Work, USC, and UCLA submitted a core coordination model developed by paraprofessionals to train health care coordinators to promote positive health outcomes.
3. Provide urgent care services on the Drew Medical Center campus to care for high cost utilizers with co-occurring disorders. The intent is to divert them from high cost care to low cost county care.

**State Department of Mental Health** – The state created a new department of institutions to take over mental health state hospitals. The change has no impact on county because this has been a slow process.

**Media Coverage** – Dr. Shaner discussed the elimination of Cedars Sinai Medical Center's residency program with the department to expand residency programs at UCLA and Olive View which are more cost effective.

### **IV. Special Presentation – St. Barnabas Senior Services**

Rigo Saborio, President and CEO

Al Chin, Program Director

Guest Speakers –

#### Caregivers

Marie Costa, Caregiver

Darice Mori, Caregiver

#### St. Barnabas Participants

Amelia Lee

Adele Little

Linda Martini

Mr. Saborio thanked George Caballero and Terry Lewis for the opportunity to host the Commission meeting; he reported the following:

- St. Barnabas was founded in 1908 became a non-profit in the 1950s focusing on older adults.
- The building houses multipurpose senior services and there are 6 other sites.
- Just won a major budget battle
- Services provided are: transportation, adult day, nutrition, social services, and wellness and fitness
- Center wants a stronger role in the community – The main contact is from older adults whose social security is the only means of income. Many have to choose either to pay for medication, food, or rent. Most suffer from anxiety because they must make these choices and the center wants to help.

Marie Acosta discussed caring for her 80 year old Mom that's using the services at St. Barnabas. Adele Little takes care of her grandmother. Other staff talked about information in the handouts. Depression is a growing health concern and often discussed by the older adults.

#### V. Commissioners' Reports

**Judy Cooperberg** – Spoke about the mental health programs in the Antelope Valley and provided information on the programs.

**Delores Huffman** – Met with Second District Health Deputy along with Commissioner Hayward McNeill to increase networking in their district. BLACCC (Black Los Angeles County Consumer Coalition) conference on December 3 was a fantastic forum. The main topic was to raise mental health awareness to reach black men in the community.

Ms. Huffman spoke about additional housing and cold weather shelters. On March 12 new housing will open for TAY population; additional units to open in August 2012

**Victoria Sofro** – Planning for the upcoming Connections of Life Conference is well on its way for the April 18, 2012 event date.

**Jerry Lubin** – Attended the STATS meeting and reported Dr. Robin Kay is taking leadership on STATS monthly reviews. Departmental units are on rotation. The end goal is how can you tell what is happening to the independent consumer, and how can the department increase effectiveness of the SLT itself.

**George Caballero** – Announced he has coordinated up to 8 positions for interns in older adults programs.

**Carlos Sosa** – In March, Dennis Murata, DMH Deputy Director will be attending the WET meeting to discuss additional funding for MHSA training.

**VI. Community and SAAC Reports**

**SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks**

In terms of the AB 109 parolees, staffs need to be trained to know what they are dealing with. SAAC continues to wait on finalization of the mission statement.

**VII. Public Comments –**

**William Legere** – There are a lot of changes coming in health care. Consumers need to be active politically.

**Phyllis Coto** – Completed the NAMI “In Your Own Voice” training. Ms. Coto asked Frank Baron to look into openings for those who have completed the program

**VIII. Meeting adjournment/Next Meeting information**

**Thursday, January 26, 2012**

**12 – 2:30 pm**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**500 W. Temple Street**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd